

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 164598

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, LA, TH, VS

SUBJECT: BLACK THAI REFUGEES

REF: UDORN 414

1. BLACK THAI USG EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES SHOULD NOT BE MOVED INTO US REFUGEE SYSTEM UNTIL AUTHORIZED BY DEPARTMENT. BEFORE WE CAN DO SO, WE WILL NEED FURTHER INFORMATION TO MAKE DECISION BASED ON FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS.

2. BANGKOK'S 10385 REPORTED THAT BLACK THAI LEADER CAM YUEN HAD REQUESTED ASYLUM IN US FOR ENTIRE GROUP OF ABOUT 1600 BLACK THAI. SUBSEQUENTLY, THAI OFFICIAL PUBLICLY
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STATED THAT, SINCE BLACK THAI WERE RELATED TO THAI, THEY

WOULD BE RESETTLED IN THAILAND. BANGKOK'S 10679 ADDED THAT NGON, HOUMPHAN AND KOUPRASITH TOLD AMBASSADOR IN BANGKOK THAT FRENCH WOULD TAKE CARE OF BLACK THAI, AND JULY 2 MEMCON STATED THAT SISOUK TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT FRENCH HAD TOLD HIM IN PARIS THEY WOULD ASSIST IN BRINGING BLACK THAI TO FRANCE. AS MENTIONED STATE 158901, WE HAVE THUS BEEN ASSUMING UNTIL NOW THAT USG WOULD HAVE NO ROLE IN RESETTLING BLACK THAI, EITHER BY ADMITTING THEM TO US OR BY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO RESETTLE THEM IN THAILAND, SINCE WE UNDERSTOOD THAT THAI OR FRENCH OR BOTH WOULD HANDLE THIS.

MOREOVER, WE WOULD THINK IT PREFERABLE FOR BLACK THAI HILL TRIBESMEN, LIKE MEO, TO BE RESETTLED IN THAI MOUNTAINS.

3. REFTTEL, HOWEVER, RAISES QUESTION OF ADMISSION TO US OF BLACK THAI USG EMPLOYEES. IN GENERAL, ALTHOUGH SUCH EMPLOYMENT GIVES PERSONS SUCH AS BLACK THAI OR ANY OTHERS SOME CLAIMS FOR ASSISTANCE BY USG, IT IS NOT OVERRIDING FACTOR FOR ADMISSION TO US. BASIC POLICY IS THAT IF REFUGEES, INCLUDING USG EMPLOYEES, CAN BE RESETTLED ELSEWHERE, FOR INSTANCE IN THAILAND OR FRANCE, THEN THEY NEED NOT BE ADMITTED TO US.

4. TO PROVIDE BASIS FOR MAKING FINAL DECISION, HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE REFTTEL, UDORN OR VIENTIANE SHOULD PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION ON BLACK THAI USG EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING THEIR NUMBER, TOTAL INCLUDING FAMILIES, WHAT SORT OF IDENTIFICATION THEY CARRIED IN LAOS, WHAT NATIONALITY WE CONSIDERED THEM WHEN THEY WERE HIRED, AND WHAT GVN CONSIDERED THEM. ALSO REQUEST BANGKOK AND PARIS COMMENTS ON WHETHER THAI AND/OR FRENCH WILL TAKE CARE OF BLACK THAI OR WHETHER USG ASSISTANCE MAY BE NEEDED. INGERSOLL

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